

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1-48. (Cancelled)

49. (Cancelled)

50. (Currently Amended) A container or preform according to claim 63[[49]], said composition including at least 0.01 ppm of titanium nitride based on the weight of said polymeric material.

51. (Cancelled)

52. (Currently Amended) A container or preform according to claim 63[[49]], wherein at least 90% of said titanium nitride comprises particles having a maximum dimension which is less than 10 microns.

53. (Currently Amended) A container or preform according to claim 63[[49]], wherein at least 95% of said titanium nitride comprises particles having a maximum dimension which is less than 10 microns.

54. (Currently Amended) A container or preform according to claim 63[[49]], wherein at least 95% of said titanium nitride comprises particles having a maximum dimension which is less than 500nm.

55. (Currently Amended) A container or preform according to claim 63[[49]], wherein the polymeric material is selected from one or more of the following polymers: polyesters, polycarbonates, polyamides, polyolefins, polystyrenes, vinyl polymers, acrylic polymers and copolymers and blends thereof.

56. (Currently Amended) A container or preform according to claim 63[[49]], wherein the polymer is poly(ethylene terephthalate) or a copolymer thereof; or polypropylene or oriented polypropylene.

57. (Currently Amended) A container or preform according to claim 63[[49]], wherein said composition includes at least 2ppm of titanium nitride based on the weight of said polymeric material.

58. (Cancelled)

59. (Currently Amended) A container or preform according to claim 63[[49]], which is a bottle.

60. (Cancelled)

61. (Currently Amended) A method of making a container, the method comprising:

(a) selecting a preform for a container wherein said preform has improved reheat characteristics and comprises a composition which comprises a polymeric material and titanium nitride, wherein said polymeric material includes 25 pp. or less of and less than 500 ppm titanium nitride based on the weight of said polymeric material; and

(b) heating the selected preform and forming it into a container.

62. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 61, wherein said polymeric material is poly(ethylene terephthalate) or a copolymer thereof and said composition includes at least 2 ppm ~~and less than 500 ppm~~ of titanium nitride, ~~wherein the ratio of the weight of poly(ethylene terephthalate) or copolymer thereof to the weight of titanium nitride is in the range  $2 \times 10^3$  to  $2.5 \times 10^5$ .~~

63. (Currently Amended) A container or a preform for a container, wherein said container or preform comprises a composition which comprises a polymeric material and

titanium nitride, wherein said polymeric material includes 25ppm or less of titanium nitride based on the weight of said polymeric material.

64. (Previously Presented) A container or a preform according to claim 63, wherein said titanium nitride is of average particle size of 100nm or less.

65. (Cancelled)

66. (Currently Amended) A container or a preform for a container according to claim 63, wherein said container or preform comprises a composition which comprises a polymeric material and titanium nitride, wherein at least 95% of said titanium nitride comprises particles having a maximum dimension which is less than 100nm.

67. (Currently Amended) A container or a preform for a container according to claim 63, ~~wherein said container or preform comprises a composition which comprises a polymeric material and titanium nitride,~~ said container or preform having an L\* of ~~at least~~ between about 54.47 and 85.50.

68-74. (Cancelled)

75. (Currently Amended) A preform according to claim 63[[74]], wherein said polymeric material comprises poly(ethylene terephthalate).

76-78. (Cancelled)